

APPENDIX E: REPORTING GUIDE FOR EFFECTIVE RIVER WATCHING

Members of the various watershed associations and Adopt-A-Stream Groups can be effective protectors of the many streams and rivers in our state.

Observation	Problem	Action
Crashed tanker truck leaking fluids into a stream	May be toxic materials	Call State Police (look for chemical number red diamond on truck). Call Hazardous Waste Hotline (1-800-424-8802).
New fill material on stream bank or wetland	Destruction of habitat	Call local Conservation Commission
Newly cleared land near stream or wetland	Destruction of habitat, runoff and sedimentation into stream	Call local Conservation Commission
Many (> 10) dead fish	Kill from toxics or changes in natural conditions.	Investigate extent, number and species of kill. Are fish dying or decaying? Call Fisheries & Wildlife at Westboro (508- 792-7270) and District Offices.
Oil Slick	Water pollution	Call Hazardous Waste Hotline at 1-800-424-8802, Coast Guard, or local fire department or Board of Health.
Blockage in fishway or stream, low or no water in fish ladder	Barrier to migrating fish	If marine species, call Division of Marine Fisheries (508-888-3590 on South Shore; (508-745-3107 on North Shore). If inland fisheries, call Fisheries & Wildlife, (508-792-7270).
Sediment Bars or Silt deposits	Degradation of Habitat	Investigate possible source of pollution. Call local Conservation Commission or work with local DPW. If from a state road, call MA Highway Department (617-973-7002)
Milky water/solvent odor	Sewage pollution	Call local Board of Health or Department of Environmental Protection (617-292-5500) to get regional office numbers.
Trash or litter	Illegal dumping	Organize River cleanup. If witness dumping, call Environmental Law Enforcement hotline (1-800-632-8075).
Large areas of green algae	Nutrient overload	Investigate extent. Call local Conservation Commission.
Eroded Stream banks	Lack of buffer strip; excessive development in watershed.	Investigate extent. Call local Conservation Commission.